



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office  
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 26, 2010  
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## ***Mexican Citizen Sentenced for Re-entry of Deported Alien***

**BISMARCK** - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 26, 2010, **Hector Francisco Varela-Duarte**, 42, of Mexico, was sentenced before United States District Court Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of re-entry of deported alien. Varela-Duarte pleaded guilty to the charge on May 7, 2010.

Judge Hovland sentenced Varela-Duarte to serve one year and one day in federal prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release. Varela-Duarte was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

On February 26, 2010, law enforcement officials received a tip that Varela-Duarte was illegally in the country and was staying at the El Rancho Motel in Williston, North Dakota. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials located and questioned Varela-Duarte. When asked for identification, Varela-Duarte presented a false alien registration receipt card. ICE officials were able to determine his true identity and discovered that he had previously been lawfully deported from the United States around June 30, 1997, and again on March 16, 2005. Varela-Duarte subsequently entered the United States without authorization from the appropriate United States officials.

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July 26, 2010

Page 2

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

Assistant United States Attorney David Hagler prosecuted the case.

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